BINARY CACHE FILE FORMAT FOR THEMING THE VISUAL APPEARANCE OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM

Abstract of the Invention

A binary theme file format provides optimized access to retrieve graphical component theme property data. The binary format includes data structures storing a set of defined visual characteristics for graphical component classes, parts, and states. The data structure includes a hierarchy of theme data.   A theme manager quickly retrieves theme property data by indexing

5   into the binary file with a unique theme handle. The theme manager accesses state, part, class, and global property sections to retrieve theme data. Jump tables and jump-to-parent references allow for quickly traversing property data sections. Packed data sections have packed objects having the necessary property data for frequently used graphical components. A custom image region data section provides border data for nontransparent image borders. A sampled colors

10   section facilitates rendering of images with solid sections. The binary file format can be constructed using a text theme file and is loaded into shared process memory.